

calm the situation, explain NATO's mission, and thus helped the alliance to overcome the resistance of those who had earlier opposed it. And perhaps even more important, those listening to these broadcasts have sent letters and e-mails pointing out that these broadcasts helped them to survive through a most difficult time.

But despite these contributions, contributions that cost very little, many question why we should maintain RFE/RL when we also spend money to support the Voice of America. To my mind, there are several good reasons for this, all of which have been highlighted by the Kosovo crisis.

First of all, RFE/RL's South Slavic Service is unique in broadcasting to all the peoples of the former Yugoslavia in different languages but with a common perspective on the need for peaceful, democratic development. RFE/RL did not broadcast to Yugoslavia during the Cold War. Had it done so, we might be facing fewer problems today.

In addition, RFE/RL continues to be a "home service" for people whose governments often deny them the chance to have a free media. The Voice of America proudly presents America's position on the issues; RFE/RL makes sure that its listeners be they in Belgrade or in Kosovo have the information they need about their own country as well. These are complementary missions; we need both.

And finally, in Eastern Europe, RFE/RL not only has real brand loyalty but also represents an important symbol of American concern about the region. People there continue to listen to RFE/RL because it provides reliable information that they need, and they see the existence of this station as reflecting America's longstanding commitment to freedom and democracy in their own countries. VOA also plays a role, and it also enjoys this kind of support. But in our time particularly, symbols matter, and RFE/RL's broadcasts remain an extraordinarily important one.

Not only is RFE/RL effective in promoting our national interests, but it is remarkably efficient: It now broadcasts more hours each week than it did a decade ago when both its budget and its number of employees were three times larger than they are now. That is a record few other broadcasters or government agencies can match. And it is one that we should reward rather than punish, continue rather than stop.

As the tragic events of Kosovo and NATO's recent military conflict with Serbia have demonstrated, the transition to a peaceful and democratic Europe is far from complete. We should support RFE/RL's vital work as we enter the 21st century.

□ 1715

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) having assumed the chair, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that the Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Depart-

ment of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 247, he reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 2415, AMERICAN EMBASSY SECURITY ACT OF 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 2415, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, cross-references, punctuation, and indentation, and to make the other technical and conforming changes necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from Monday evening's votes. Had I been here, I would have supported three measures, H.R. 1033, House Resolution 25, and H.R. 1477, that passed under suspension overwhelmingly. Again, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 308, 309, and 310.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAQ—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-102)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Iraqi emergency is to

continue in effect beyond August 2, 1999, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

The crisis between the United States and Iraq that led to the declaration on August 2, 1990, of a national emergency has not been resolved. The Government of Iraq continues to engage in activities inimical to stability in the Middle East and hostile to United States interests in the region. Such Iraqi actions pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and vital foreign policy interests of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad authorities necessary to apply economic pressure on the Government of Iraq.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 20, 1999.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire from the majority as to what will be the remainder of the schedule for today, specifically as it relates to tax legislation.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RANGEL. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I do not know how I found myself in the position other than the fact that I am standing at this microphone. But I do have a strong message that we are going to have a brief recess and then plan to reassemble. I would say check in about early evening.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, so that the Members will have an opportunity to plan the rest of the evening, is it possible to have some guesstimate as to what time the majority will be prepared to return to the floor?

Mr. GOSS. Approximately 6 p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2561, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-247) on the resolution (H. Res. 257) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2561) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1074, REGULATORY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT OF 1999

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 106-248) on the resolution (H. Res. 258) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1074) to provide Government-wide accounting of regulatory costs and benefits, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2465, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on the bill (H.R. 2465) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Messrs. HOBSON, PORTER, WICKER, TIAHRT, WALSH, MILLER of Florida, ADERHOLT, Ms. GRANGER, Messrs. YOUNG of Florida, OLVER, EDWARDS, FARR of California, BOYD, DICKS, and OBEY.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2490, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on the bill (H.R. 2490) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. KOLBE, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mrs. EMERSON, Messrs. SUNUNU, PETERSON of Pennsylvania, BLUNT, YOUNG of Florida, HOYER, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. OBEY.

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 987

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 987.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1018

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. COMBEST) at 10 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.

FUELS REGULATORY RELIEF ACT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 880) to amend the Clean Air Act to remove flammable fuels from the list of substances with respect to which reporting and other activities are required under the risk management plan program, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I do not intend to object, but I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) to explain his unanimous consent request.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), for yielding.

S. 880, as amended, would resolve the existing national security crisis presented by the EPA's distribution of chemical facility worst-case scenarios. It is critical that we resolve this issue immediately, as EPA already has received Freedom of Information Act requests for this material and cannot, without this bill, prevent inappropriate dissemination of the national database of worst-case scenarios.

The EPA also chose to include propane under the risk management program regulations intended to reduce the risks associated with toxic chemicals accidents. Propane, however, is not toxic.

While the threshold quantity for listed substances is determined by criteria that includes flammability and combustibility because propane is not toxic, it should not be on the list of covered substances in the first place. This legislation removes it from the list.

A bill I had in the House, H.R. 1301, that does this same thing, has 145 cosponsors. S. 880 successfully accomplishes this objective and also meets the important criteria of the risk criteria.

As the gentleman is well aware, S. 880 was amended through the cooperation and careful consideration of the minority and of the administration, and we will include a joint statement in the RECORD describing the bill. It is a balanced, bipartisan measure that will ensure that local citizens receive information concerning the risks presented by local chemical facilities while at the same time protecting our national security.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, I wish to extend my thanks to my col-

leagues on both sides of the aisle for working together to reach agreement on the Chemical Safety Information, Site Security, and Fuels Regulatory Relief Act. I concur with the joint statement of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) concerning S.880.

This bill places a one-year moratorium on distribution of worst case scenario information to the general public and requires the administration to promulgate regulations on the dissemination of worst-case scenarios to the public after performing two separate assessments: One on the risk of terrorist activity associated with the posting of the information on the Internet and another on the incentives created by public disclosure of worst-case scenarios for reduction in the risk of accidental releases.

I expect the administration will find that the preparation in dissemination of these worst-case scenarios benefits the public in several ways. The public will be better prepared for accidental releases of extremely hazardous substances. The facilities that utilize these substances will manage them responsibly and the workers at these facilities will be able to engage in a productive dialogue with their employers about the use and management of these substances.

I know a number of responsible companies already have convened public meetings to share this worst case scenario information with emergency responders and other citizens in the communities that may be affected by the release of these substances.

To that end, I support the provisions of this bill that would require the facilities to submit worst-case scenarios to conduct an informational meeting in their communities during the moratorium period.

As well, it is my expectation that the regulations developed by the administration in the coming year will recognize the importance of community right to know. A citizen should be able to obtain worst case scenario information for all facilities that could affect her community or his community. With accurate information about chemical facilities in hand, neighbors, workers, local leaders, researchers and emergency response personnel can work with the owners and the managers of chemical facilities to build safer communities for everyone.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on June 17, with the support of every Democratic Member of the Commerce Health and Environment Subcommittee, I introduced H.R. 2257, the Chemical Security Act of 1999. This bill represented a consensus among Subcommittee Democrats that I believe would have recognized and respected the Right-to-Know laws while shielding chemical facilities and their employees from potential terrorist attacks.